

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of introducing a gene into a plant material via Agrobacterium, comprising:
  - 1) pressurizing the plant material, and then
  - 2) infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium,  
wherein the pressurization is performed in the range of 1.7 atmospheres to 10 atmospheres.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented)) The method of claim 2 wherein pressurization is performed in the range of 2.4 atmospheres to 8 atmospheres.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 1-~~to 3 or 3~~ wherein pressurization is performed for 0.1 second to 4 hours.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein pressurization is performed for 1 second to 30 minutes.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein pressurization is performed in a liquid or gas.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising subjecting the plant material to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of heat treatment, centrifugation and sonication before or during the step 2) of infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant material is a monocotyledon.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant material is rice or maize.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant material is a dicotyledon.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant material is tobacco.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant material is an immature embryo.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of, ~~claim 1 subsequently to the step 2) of infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium, further comprising the steps of claim 1, further comprising the following steps, after step 2) of infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium:~~

- 3) selecting a transformant, and
- 4) optionally regenerating the selected transformant.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the gene introduction efficiency is improved as compared with cases wherein the step 1) of pressurization is not conducted.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a transformed plant, comprising:  
1) pressurizing a plant material,  
2) infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium,  
3) selecting a transformed cell, and  
4) optionally regenerating the selected transformant, thereby producing a transformed plant.

wherein the pressurization is performed in the range of 1.7 atmospheres to 10 atmospheres.

16. (New) A method for producing a transformed cell, comprising:

- 1) pressurizing a plant material,
- 2) infecting the plant material with an Agrobacterium, and
- 3) selecting a transformed cell, thereby producing a transformed cell,

wherein the pressurization is performed in the range of 1.7 atmospheres to 10 atmospheres.